



MARYLAND LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

Lowe House Office Building, 6 Bladen Street, Room 200 · Annapolis, Maryland 21401
Phone 410-841-3374 | 301-858-3374 · 800-492-7122 Ext. 3374 · Fax 410-841-3342 | 301-858-3342
latino.caucus@house.state.md.us · www.mdlatinocaucus.org

DAVID FRASER-HIDALGO, CHAIR
JOSELINE A. PEÑA-MELNYK, VICE-CHAIR
GABRIEL ACEVERO, TREASURER
JESSE T. PIPPY, SECRETARY
CESIAH FUENTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MEMBERS

ALFRED CARR
ALICE CAIN
ALONZO WASHINGTON
ANNE HEALEY
ARIANA B. KELLY
BEN BARNES
BONNIE CULLISON
BROOKE LIERMAN
CAROL L. KRIMM
CHARLOTTE CRUTCHFIELD
CRAIG ZUCKER
DAVID MOON
DIANA FENNELL
EMILY SHETTY
EREK BARRON
ERIC LUEDTKE
GERALDINE VALENTINO-SMITH
HEATHER BAGNALL
J. SANDY BARTLETT
JAMES ROSAPEPE
JARED SOLOMON
JAZZ LEWIS
JEFF WALDSTREICHER
JEN TERRASA
JESSICA FELDMARK
JHEANELLE WILKINS
JIM GILCHRIST
JULIE PALAKOVICH CARR
JULIAN IVEY
KAREN LEWIS YOUNG
KEN KERR
LESLEY LOPEZ
LILY QI
LORIG CHARKOUDIAN
MAGGIE MCINTOSH
MALCOLM AUGUSTINE
MARC KORMAN
MARY A. LEHMAN
MARY WASHINGTON
MIKE ROGERS
NICOLE WILLIAMS
PAMELA QUEEN
REGINA T. BOYCE
ROBBYN LEWIS
SHANE PENDERGRASS
SHELLY HETTLEMAN
STEPHANIE SMITH
SUSAN C. LEE
TERRI HILL
VAUGHN STEWART
WANIKA FISHER
WILL SMITH

TO: Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, Chair
Delegate Alonzo T. Washington, Vice Chair
Ways and Means Committee Members

FROM: Maryland Legislative Latino Caucus (MLLC)

RE: HB404 Economic Development Programs - Data Collection and Tracking -
Minority Business Enterprises

The MLLC supports HB404 Economic Development Programs - Data Collection and Tracking - Minority Business Enterprises

The MLLC is a bipartisan group of Senators and Delegates committed to supporting legislation which improves the lives of Latinos throughout our state. The MLLC is a voice in the development of public policy affecting the Latino community and the state of Maryland. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our support of HB404.

Anyone who has started a business is familiar with that meaningful experience. For some Latino and other minority entrepreneurs, it is especially significant because it means social and economic mobility by gaining financial independence and improving their family's quality of life. Marginalized populations like people of color and women, are often disadvantaged when starting and executing a business. The legislature has created the proper channels to aid in the economic development of all Marylanders. In order to continue best serving our minority owned businesses, it is imperative to have access to the distribution data of state assistance to these enterprises.

HB404 requires increased reporting from the Maryland Department of Commerce on the quantity of minority business enterprises (MBE) that receive assistance from economic development programs and the percentage of how much aid is distributed to these MBE's. Currently, how much aid MBE's receive through these programs is unknown. With this piece of legislation, the Governor and the General Assembly will have more accurate information to determine if MBE's are receiving adequate assistance. Minority businesses supply and drive our state's economy; thus, we continue to support their work.

The MLLC supports this bill and seeks your favorable report on HB404.